

Village of South River  
Council Meeting –October 25, 2021

The meeting of the Council of the Village of South River was held virtually and in person on Monday October 25, 2021. A quorum was present. In attendance were Mayor Jim Coleman (Chairing in person in Council chambers), Deputy Mayor Doug Sewell and Councilor Bill O’Hallarn (in person in Council chambers) and Councilors Teri Brandt and Brenda Scott (virtual).

**Staff in Attendance :** Don McArthur, Clerk Administrator – In person  
Sherri Hawthorne: Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Clerk - Virtual  
Janet Wedseltoft, Administrative Assistant – Virtual  
Risto Maki, Fire Chief – In person

**Guest:** Rocco Frangione, Media – Virtual

**1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Coleman at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof** – Nil

**3. Delegation and Public Meeting** - Nil

With the permission of Council, Mayor Coleman moved up item 6.2.1 to accommodate Fire Chief Maki.

**6.2 Reports from Shared Services –**

1. Fire Chief Maki October Report

283-2021 Scott/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the October report from South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki.**

Carried

Fire Chief Maki left the meeting at 5:35 p.m

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

284-2021 Sewell/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby adopt the minutes of the Council meeting on October 12, 2021 as presented.**

Carried

**5. Accounts and Finance**

**5.1 Accounts Reports**

1. 2022 OMPF Allocation Notice - South River
2. MPAC - 2022 Municipal Levy

285-2021 Scott/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the reports from Accounts and Finance #1 to #2.**

Carried

**6. Reports from Municipal Staff/Committees**

**6.1 Reports from Municipal Staff and Related Business –**

1. South River Employee COVID -19 Policy
2. Machar Shared Services Resolution
3. Revised NOHFC Train Station Resolution
4. Broadway Street

286-2021 O'Hallarn/Sewell

**Whereas** the Township of Machar passed resolution 135-21 on August 23, 2021 and forwarded it to South River stating their intention to maintain the current funding formula but in the details indicate their unilateral intention to control the South River Machar Fire Department and South River Machar Arena and Community Centre via their approval of the annual budgets without suggesting a process for both Councils to interact with each other to reach consensus;

**Whereas** the Township of Machar Resolution 135-21 does not support the cooperative consensus building approach required for successful joint services;

**Whereas** in 2018 the Village of South River determined that the Township of Machar was no longer following the terms and conditions of the 1995 agreements for Shared Services of Fire and Arena and drafted updated terms for discussion which were shared with the Township of Machar in March 2019;

**Whereas** the Township of Machar did not respond or accept invitations to discuss those terms and on Dec 22, 2019 responded with a legal opinion saying the old agreements were no longer valid;

**Whereas** the Township of Machar requested a meeting of only Mayors and Clerk-Administrators to discuss new terms in March 2020 where the desire of the Township of Machar to simply update the old agreements was agreed upon;

**Whereas** the Township of Machar provided updated terms in March of 2021 that significantly altered the committee structure and stated the only dispute resolution mechanism was the Municipal Arbitration Act to which the Village of South River indicated our wish to discuss these issues but no meeting has yet been set;

**Whereas** the Township of Machar has rejected or cancelled every attempt to have a Joint Council meeting to discuss these issues during the entire term of this Council, the most recent being September 21, 2021;

**Whereas** the joint budget process for 2021 was effective in allowing both municipalities to present and discuss in detail their concerns which resulted in agreed budgets;

**Whereas** there are two fully functioning shared services between the Village of South River and the Township of Machar, South River Machar Union Public Library and the South River Machar Medical Centre that give authority to the Board and Committee to operate and are good models to follow for new agreements;

**Whereas** the South River Machar Fire Department is an essential service for the protection of residents and businesses in both Machar and South River;

**Whereas** South River Machar Arena and Community Centre is critical infrastructure for recreation for all ages and an emergency shelter for both Machar and South River;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Village of South River as the managerial body will in the interim continue to operate the shared services of Fire and Arena to ensure the essential protection and recreation opportunities for all residents of Machar and South River until an equitable resolution can be achieved through a process similar to the joint budget process.

Carried

287-2021 Sewell/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support an application to the Community Enhancement Program - Rural Enhancement Stream of Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for upgrades to the South River Train Station in the amount of \$225,000 and that all cost overruns are the responsibility of the Village of South River.

Carried

288-2021 Brandt/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby accept the staff and committee reports #1 to #4 as presented.**

Carried

### **6.3 Reports from Regional Committees**

1. ACED October Director Report, October 18 Minutes and Budget
2. PSDSSAB Chief Administrative Officer's October Report
3. Joint Building Committee 2020 Financial Statements

289-2021 Sewell/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Reports from the Regional Committees: Items #1 to # 3.**

Carried

### **7. Correspondence**

1. Ministry Environment Conservation and Parks - Land Use Policy
2. M and J Doors - Severance Request 18 Isabella
3. Cambium Indigenous Professional Services -TRW Lunch and Learn
4. Solicitor General - Community Safety Well Being Plan
5. Enbridge - Notice of Ontario Energy Board Application

290-2021 Sewell/Scott

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby support in principal an application to the Joint Planning Board for a severance of 18 Isabella Street to create to two separate lots. The lot with house would be zoned Second Density Residential (R2) and the corner lot would remain Downtown Commercial (C1) provided our municipal planner deems both lots to be viable. All costs for the planner, zoning application changes, and severance application shall be borne by the applicant.**

Carried

291-2021 O'Hallarn/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby receive the Correspondence: Agenda Items #1 to #5.**

Carried

### **8. Council Roundtable**

Deputy Mayor Sewell reported on the statistics from the Hazardous Waste Day held in August. Information gathered indicated that there were a total of 120 vehicles representing 140 households dropping off items with 10 cars representing 12 households coming from South River.

Deputy Mayor Sewell further advised that the Highland Players are celebrating 30 years in the community. To celebrate they plan to hold 3-4 performances in Tom Thomson Park in the summer of 2022, probably over a weekend in July. The performances will consist of music and skits from previous productions.

Councilor O'Hallarn noted the activity at 18 Isabella Avenue and 93 Ottawa Avenue and was pleased to see vacant buildings being reoccupied.

Councilor Scott inquired about Halloween activities in the village. Many in the area were mentioned including the South River Machar Fire Department handing out candy and the Staycation events at Tom Thomson Park. It was recommended to make sure the Village events were shared on the Village Facebook Page.

Councilor Brandt advised that she had been approached by Charity Young, the woman who had made the initial proposal for a crosswalk with flashing lights at Eagle Lake Road and Alfred Street, to enquire on the status of the project. Councilor Brandt informed her that the signals were on order which Ms. Young was happy to hear.

Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Clerk Hawthorne reported that the cemetery is winding down for the year. It was a very busy year for the cemetery as some families deferred the internment of their loved one's ashes from 2020 to 2021 as COVID restricted the number of family members that could gather at the Cemetery. CFO Hawthorne thanked Public Works for maintaining the cemetery so diligently and Evan Claridge of Claridge Maintenance for his hard work in his first year providing internment services.

Clerk/Administrator McArthur reminded council of two upcoming meetings; a Public Works meeting on Wednesday, October 27 at 1 pm and the public meeting and open house for the watermain project at the arena on Thursday, October 28 at 7 pm with Ross Slaughter P. Eng. of GSS Engineering Consultants Ltd. presenting.

**9. In Camera** – Nil

**10. By-laws and Resolutions**

292-2021 Scott/Brandt

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby read a first, second and third time and finally pass By-law# 42-2021, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Provincial Government for funding under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Modernization Transfer Payment Agreement with the signature of the Mayor and the Clerk Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**11. Confirming By-law**

293-2021 Sewell/O'Hallarn

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of South River does hereby read a first, second and third time and finally pass By-law# 43-2021, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 25th day of October 2021 with the signatures of the Mayor and the Clerk-Administrator and the corporate seal affixed.**

Carried

**12. Adjournment**

294-2021 Scott/Sewell

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Village of South River does hereby adjourn to meet again as the South River Council on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the South River Council Chambers located at 63 Marie Street or at the call of the Mayor. Time of Adjournment: 7:02 p.m.**

Carried

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**Jim Coleman, Mayor**

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**Don McArthur, Clerk-Administrator**